

Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Bill Moran
Senate Armed Services Committee
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The crux of my testimony is that your Navy is less ready because she is too small. It's a simple matter of supply can't meet demand...the smallest Navy we've had in 99 years can only answer 40% of Combatant Commander requirements.

On 9/11 we had 316 ships and over 400,000 Sailors, today we have 275 ships and nearly 90,000 fewer Sailors, and yet the world has become a lot busier since then. A smaller fleet operating at the same pace is wearing out faster, work has increased and we're asking an awful lot of our Sailors and Navy Civilians.

That said...we are where we are. Which makes it urgent...to pass an amended budget and remove sequestration so that we can adequately fund, fix and maintain the fleet we do have!

It seems that every year we come before you and talk about making tough choices, and more often than not, we rightly choose to support those forward at the expense of those at home. This year is more of the same, and our long term readiness continues its insidious decline.

So, while we are still able to put our first team on the field, our bench is depleted.

With your help, we have an opportunity to change this. It starts by strengthening our foundation, ensuring that the ships and aircraft that we do have are maintained and modernized so they provide their full measure of combat power. Then, let's fill in the holes by eliminating the inventory shortfalls of ships, submarines and aircraft.

And, together, by taking these two steps, we can achieve the ultimate goal of sizing a ready Navy to meet the strategic demands of this dynamic and changing world.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I look forward to your questions.